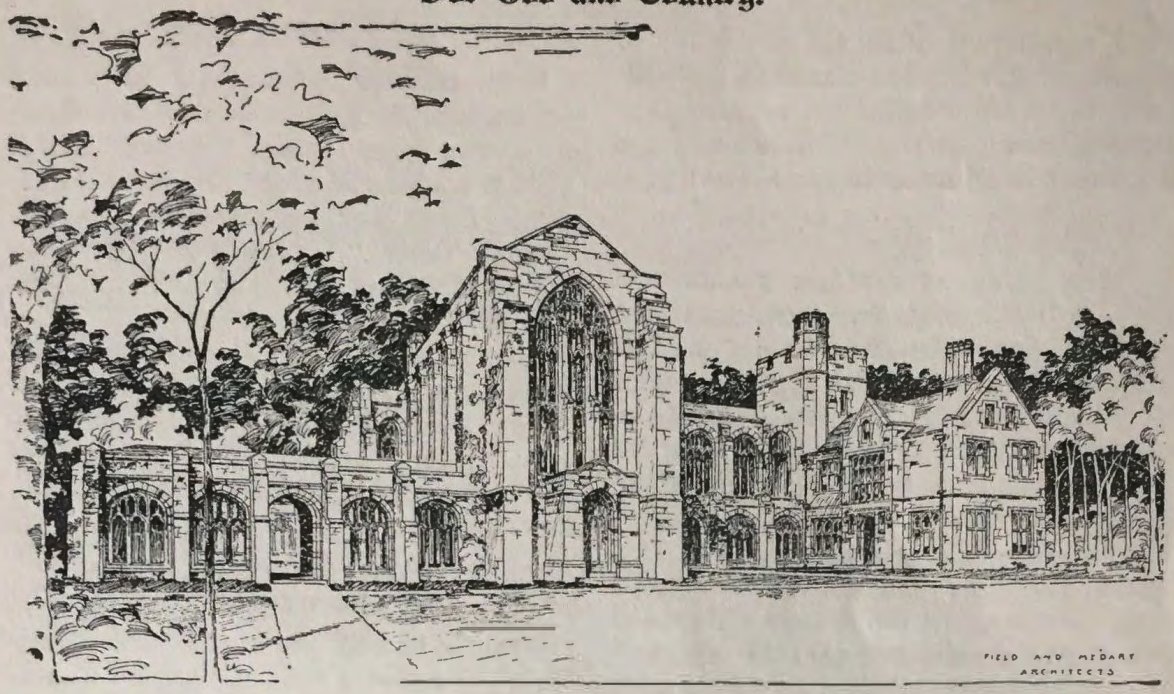
"For God and Country.



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

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The Screen of the President's Pew.

When the screen in front of the President's Pew was unveiled on Massachusetts Day at Valley Forge there was revealed a work of art that has since called forth the highest praise. Mrs. Wm. H. Pearson, the donor, deserves high praise for this notable addition to the handsome memorials in the Chapel, and to both Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., who designed it, and to Mr. G. Gerald Evans, who made it, must honor be given for this beautiful screen.

The ends of the screen are surmounted by the carved poppy-heads, like those on the Pews of the Patriots. Below that on the aisle end are carved the Washington arms, and on the base are the arms of Mrs. Pearson's family, Benjamin.

The screen is divided into panels by oak buttresses similar to those used on the angles of the pulpit close by. These are surmounted by angels kneeling in worship. The idea of the figure is that Providence of God to which Washington so often referred as manifested in the guidance and success of the American patriots.

The screen, except the ends and buttress finials, is just the height of the pew backs. Below the edge of the book-

shelf which runs along the entire top of the screen are sunken panels of Gothic design. There are thirteen of them, and in each is carved a flag. Great care has been used in both carving and coloring.

THE NATIONAL STANDARD.

The selection of the flags has been a task in itself, and Mr. Burk and the architect have been greatly aided in their studies by Mr. Gherardi Davis, the author of "Regimental Colors in the War of the Revolution," who presented a copy of his monumental work to the Washington Memorial Library.

The central panel contains the "standard of the United States," the well known Continental flag of the thirteen stripes and the thirteen stars arranged in a circle. The flag reproduced in this position of honor on the screen "is positively known to have been carried as a Regimental flag of the 3d Maryland Regiment under Colonel John Eager Howard at the battle of Cowpens, S. C., in January, 1781, in which battle it was carried by William Batchelor. Batchelor was wounded in this battle and sent to his home in Baltimore, bringing with him the flag." It is now at Annapolis.

To the right of this central flag is another standard of the United States, the earlier form in which the stars are arranged in lines corresponding to the crosses on the English standard.

THE GRAND UNION FLAG.

To the left of the central flag is the still earlier standard—that in which the English "Jack," composed of the red and white crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, are in a blue field. This was the "King's colors" carried by every regiment, and the addition of the thirteen red and white stripes, representing the Colonies, indicate that it was the flag of English colonists who still hoped to secure their rights without separation. This flag was first unfurled at Cambridge, Mass., January 1, 1776.

FLAG OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Next to this Continental or Grand Union flag is the standard of the Commander-in-Chief of the American Army. This is a blue flag with thirteen stars arranged along the lines of the crosses of the "King's Colors." The stars have six points instead of five, showing its very early date.

The original, through the courtesy of its owner, Miss Fannie B. Lovell, is in the Valley Forge Museum of American History, by the marquee with which it was associated throughout the War of the Revolution.

FLAG OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARD.

Next to the standard of the Commander-in-Chief is placed that of his Life Guard. The proper title of the corps was the "Commander-in-Chief's Guard." It was composed of picked men, at first Virginians. At Valley Forge the number was increased, and the Guard, drilled by Baron Steuben, became the model for the army.

The flag was of white silk, and on it was painted Liberty leaning upon the Union shield, near which was an eagle. She was presenting a standard to one of the Guard, who held a caparisoned horse. Above the figure, on a ribbon, was the motto of the Guard, "Conquer or die." "The figure of the Guard was in the uniform adopted for the corps, a blue coat with white facings, white waist coat and breeches, black half-gaiters, a cocked hat with a blue and white feather, and sword and cross belt. The female figure was robed in light blue."

The uniform of the Guard was exactly like that presented to the Valley Forge Museum of American History by the Valley Forge Chapter, D. A. R. This gift has an added interest now that the standard of the Guard is so carefully reproduced.

The flag was owned by Mr. George Washington Parke Custis, to whom the marquee belonged, and was by him pre-

sented to the Museum at Alexandria, where it was destroyed by fire.

FLAG OF THE PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE.

The next standard was also associated with Washington, for on more than one occasion the Philadelphia Light Horse acted as his escort.

"This standard was presented to the organization by Captain Markoe in 1775, and was carried at Trenton, Princeton, the Brandywine and Germantown. It is about 3 feet by 3½ feet in size, of dull yellow color, and has a canton with thirteen blue and silver stripes, recalling the Tallmadge standards. The shield contains on a blue ground a gold knot with thirteen golden scrolls. The supporting figures are delicately colored. The spear head and tassels are of silver."

Above the shield is a horse's and over this the monogram L. H. The motto is: "For these we strive."

The flag is jealously guarded by the First City Troop, Philadelphia.

FLAG OF THE FIRST PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT.

The next flag is also a Pennsylvania color. This was carried by the First Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment. The flag is of dark green with a square of red in the centre, and on the red (in white) a hunter with a lance attacking a tiger (lion?), which is in a net. Below the figures is the motto "POMINARI NOLO," and above the letters "P. M. 1st Rt." This color is in the State Capitol, Harrisburg, and is described as early as March 8, 1776, by Lieutenant Colonel Hand (see Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. X. p. 12)."

FLAG OF THE THIRD NEW YORK REGIMENT.

The last flag to the left is that of the Third New York Regiment. Mr. Davis says: "There is in New York State but one regimental color, that of the Third New York Regiment, which regiment was commanded by Colonel Peter Gansevoort. It was afterward consolidated with the 2d New York, but it seems to be unquestioned that this flag was at Yorktown with the consolidated regiment. The flag, which was made in 1778 or 1779, is about six feet square, and is of dark blue silk. The fringe is also blue. The State Arms are painted on both sides of the flag. The coloring of the arms is as in the present State's Arms, except that the wreath is in red and white, not blue and gold. The supporters, who are in costumes of the second half of the eighteenth century, have dresses of cloth of gold, red mantles and sandals, and blue sashes across their bodies. The scroll work is yellow—brown, shaded brown. This flag, until recently in the possession of Mrs. Abraham Lansing, Albany, has been carefully framed, and is now deposited, for safe keeping, in the Albany Institute and Historical Art Society. . . It is by far the handsomest regimental color of Revolutionary days."

Passing to the right of the group of National colors, we come to

THE RATTLESNAKE FLAG.

Captain Henry Hobart Bellas, U. S. A., gives the following interesting account of this flag: "This famous flag consists of thirteen horizontal alternate red and blue stripes—sometimes also red and white stripes—bearing diagonally across them a rattlesnake in a moving or running position, with the threatening motto above or beneath, "Don't tread on me."

"The flag was used by different organizations of the American army during the Revolution, but particularly by the vessels of the American navy, as stated by John Jay in a letter dated July, 1776. Captain John Paul Jones was supposed to have used this special device, though an English writer of the period of Jones' cruise in European waters (in 1779,, is quoted as saying, "A strange flag has lately appeared in our seas, having a pine tree with the portraiture of a rattlesnake coiled up at its roots and with these daring words, 'Don't tread on me.'" This flag would seem to be almost the same as

that designed by Colonel Godsdem, of South Carolina, in 1776, for 'the Commander-in-Chief of the American Navy.'"

FLAG OF THE FLOATING BATTERIES.

"Colonel Joseph Reed, in a letter from Cambridge, Mass., to Colonels Glover and Moylan, dated October 20, 1775, said, 'Please to fix some particular color for a flag, and a signal, by which our vessels may know one another. What do you think of a flag with a white ground, a tree in the middle, the motto, 'Appeal to Heaven'? This is the flag of our floating batteries."

This letter both describes the next flag, and also fixes its date. Two batteries had been launched on the Charles river in September, 1775, and in the very month in which Colonel Reed wrote they were giving good account of themselves.

THE EUTAW STANDARD.

The next flag is the standard of love and war. It is only a small square of red damask, fringed, but no other flag was carried more proudly or defended more bravely. Colonel William Augustine Washington, of Virginia, was sent to South Carolina in 1780 in command of a troop of cavalry. Miss Jane Elliott was then living near Charleston. They met, and the rest you know. On one of his visits Miss Elliott learned that the troop had no flag. Seizing her scissors she cut this square from a piece of drapery and asked him to use it as his standard. Mounted upon a hickory pole this flag was carried with honor to the close of the war, passing unscathed through the battles of Cowpens and Eutaw Springs. From its place in the latter it is known as "the Eutaw Standard." It is now owned by the Washington Light Infantry, of Charleston, to which organization it was presented by Mrs. Washington in 1827. (The marriage took place in 1782.)

THE PULASKI STANDARD.

If the Eutaw Standard be the banner of love, the next is the banner of poetry. Count Casimer Pulaski, the ill-fated leader of the Polish military forces, at the age of twenty-four was an outlaw with a price upon his head. In France he met Franklin, who advised him to join the American army as a volunteer. He did so, won recognition, and Sept. 15, 1777, was appointed commander of the cavalry with the rank of major-general. He resigned his command in March, 1778, and was authorized by Congress to raise a corps of "sixty-eight light horse and two hnudred foot." This was known as Pulaski's Legion. He came to Valley Forge to consult with Washington, but was here only a few days

The banner of the Legion was made for him by the Moravian Single Sisters, at Bethlehem. It is now owned by the Maryland Historical Society. "This little standard is a trifle over eighteen inches square, and is of double silk, originally red, now faded to brownish red. The embroidery is in yellow silk. The fringe is bullion." On one side, surrounding an eye, are the words: "NON ALIUS REGIT." This side is represented on the screen. The other has the letters U S, surrounded by the words: "UNITAS VIRTUS FORCIOR" (fortior).

This standard will always recall those lines of Longfellow:

When the dying flame of day
Through the chancel shot its ray,
Far the glimmering tapers shed
Faint light on the cowled head;
And the censer burning swing,
Where, before the altar, hung
The crimson banner, that with prayer
Had been consecrated there.
And the nuns' sweet hymn was heard the
while,
Sung low, in the dim, mysterious aisle.

"Take thy banner! May it wave
Proudly o'er the good and brave;
When the battle's distant wail
Breaks the sabbath of our vale,
When the clarion's music thrills
To the hearts of these lone hills,
When the spear in conflict shakes,
And the strong lance shivering breaks.

"Take thy banner! and, beneath
The battle-cloud's encircling wreath,
Guard it, till our homes are free!
Guard it! God will prosper thee!
In the dark and trying hour,
In the breaking forth of power,

In the rush of steeds and men,
His right hand will shield thee then.

"Take thy banner! But when night
Closes round the ghastly fight,
If the vanquished warrior bow,
Spare him! By our holy vow,
By our prayers and many tears,
By the mercy that endears,
Spare him! He our love hath shared!
Spare him! as thou wouldst be spared!

"Take thy banner! and if e'er
Thou shouldst press the soldier's bier,
And the muffled drum should beat
To the tread of mournful feet,
Then this crimson flag shall be
Martial cloak and shroud for thee."

The warrior took that banner proud,
And it was his martial cloak and shroud!

Pulaski commanded the cavalry of the united armies of the French and Americans in the attack on Savannah, Oct. 9, 1779, where he received a mortal wound. He was taken on board the U. S. brig "Wasp," from which his body was consigned to its waiting grave. One of Pulaski's captains, Paul Bentalon, of Baltimore, was with him when he fell. He secured the standard, and from him it finally passed into the possession of the Maryland Historical Society.

FLAG OF THE BEDFORD MINUTE MEN

The thirteenth flag represented is said to be the oldest in America. It is in the Public Library of Bedford, Massachusetts, and was carried by the Bedford minute men in the battle of Concord. It is described as follows: "The ground is maroon, emblazoned with an outstretched arm, the color of silver, in the hand of which is an uplifted sword. Three circular figures, also in silver, are said to represent cannon balls. Upon a gold scroll are the words, "Vince aut Morire," meaning "Conquer or Die."

Thirteen shields are placed along the base of the screen. On the central shield is the name of Washington, to the left are the arms of the United States and to the right the Washington arms. To the right of those are the names of the Major Generals—Lafayette, Steuben, Dupontail, Sterling and Knox. To the left of the National arms are St. Clair, DeKalb, Greene, Sullivan and Lee. General Charles Lee was a traitor when he joined the army at Valley Forge after his release from captivity, so his name has been partly obliterated by cross lines.

The dedicatory plate contains the following inscription:

To the Glory of God
in Honor of
General George Washington
Commander-in-Chief of the
Continental Army
and his Major Generals at
Valley Forge
and in Memory of
Benaiah Benjamin
and
Elizabeth Noyes
his Wife
this Pew Screen
is given by their Daughters
Nancy Delia Benjamin Pearson
June 19, 1911

The Rector moved into the Lodge of the Defender's Gate on Thursday, January 18. The moving was in charge of the Guild, the members of which were assisted by other members and friends of the parish. The following furnished the teams: Mr. Nathan Hughes, Mr. Ralph Hunt, Mr. Elliott Thomas, Mr. Frank Quigg, Mr. Charles Wells Walker and Mr. Colket Walker.

Committees were apointed to work at both the house and the Chapel. The luncheon was served in the parish house by members of the Guild.

As the carpets and rugs were laid on the previous day it did not take long to place the furniture, and by night the whole house was in very good order, with most of the pictures hung. The Rector heartily thanks all those who so willingly aided him in the removal.

The Rev. W. Herbert Burk, Dr. Charles M. Burk and the Rev. Edmund Burk desire to express their deep gratitude for the many acts of kindness and words of sympathy which lightened their hour of sorrow.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, B. D.
RECTOR

Port Kennedy, Telephone 40.

Calendar.

Sundays.

10.45 A. M. Service and Sermon.
2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Holy Communion, First Sunday.
At Stewart Fund Hall, King-of-Prussia:
9 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
7.30 P. M. Service and Sermon.

FEBRUARY.

18. Quinquagesima Sunday.
21. Ash Wednesday.
10 a. m. Service, sermon and Holy Communion.
22. Washington's Birthday.
10 a. m. Service and sermon.
23. 3 p. m. Service and sermon.
7.30 p. m. Service and sermon, King-of-Prussia.
24. St. Matthias.
9.30 a. m. Holy Communion.
25. First Sunday in Lent.

MARCH.

1. 3 p. m. Service and sermon.
7.30 p. m. Service and sermon, King-of-Prussia.
3. Second Sunday in Lent.
4. 8 p. m. Meeting of the Vestry.
6. 2.30 p. m. Meeting of the Guild.
10. Third Sunday in Lent.

PARISH REGISTER.

FUNERALS.

Feb. 8. Florence H. Kendall.
Feb. 12. Thomas D. Toner.

INTERMENT IN WASHINGTON MEMORIAL CEMETERY.

Feb. 13. Gertrude Hele Burk.

The Vestry has issued a very attractive booklet describing the Washington Memorial Cemetery. The Defender's Gate and the Chapel are shown, and a map is now being printed to go with the booklet. It is hoped that those interested in the development of this beautiful tract will call the attention of their friends to it. Mr. Frank Quigg, Port Kennedy, Pa., will send booklets free of cost and give information in regard to the cost of lots. As soon as the sale of lots amounts to five thousand dollars the price will be largely increased.

Dr. Alfred W. Read and Miss Nina Boreiche Read have presented to the Museum the bullet which their father removed from General Hancock's wound. Dr. Louis W. Read was famed for his surgical skill, and when General Hancock was wounded by this bullet which struck him in the battle of Gettysburg, Dr. Read was ordered to Norristown to attend the General. The army order was also presented by Dr. and Miss Read, so the two relics are of the greatest interest, and with the other relics form a memorial of the great army surgeon in whose memory they are given.

Mrs. Pechin had charge of the luncheon which was served in the parish house on the day of the funeral of Mrs. Burk, and, aided by other members of the parish, relieved the rector of any concern for the comfort of the relatives and friends of the family. The arrangements were admirably made and carried out.

Mr. Harry Hoisington has given the Library a copy of:

"Atlas | Designed to Ilustrate the | Geography of the Heavens | etc. | By Elijah H. Burritt, A. M. | A new Edition, Revised and Corrected | By Hiram Mattison | Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy in the Fally Seminary; Author of Primary Astronomy | Elementary Astronomy, Astronomical Maps, etc., etc. | Copyrighted 1850 |"

CLOISTER OF THE COLONIES

—— Bay | New York Bay and Open air Pulpit | Delaware Bay

Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

Will Build a Bay in the Cloister.

The Society of the Colonial Dames of America will have the honor of building the most important Bay in the Cloister of the Colonies. Mrs. Edward H. Ripley, of New York, entertained the Colonial Dames at her house on the twenty - seventh of December, when the Rev. W. Herbert Burk delivered an illustrated lecture on Valley Forge and presented to the society the opportunity to erect a notable memorial on this historic site. The project met with enthusiastic approval, and at a second meeting at the residence of Mrs. Ira Davenport on January 23d it was formally decided to devote three thousand dollars toward the erection of the central Bay in the Cloister of the Colonies. This will include a beautiful open-air pulpit.

The Chapel will hold only a small congregation, but in all special occasions when the weather permits, the services will be held in the open air. The choristers will occupy the Cloister, and the pulpit will be used.

Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., has made a special study of this new feature of the Cloister, and the result will be another note of artistic value. The Bay will adjoin the Delaware Bay, and will be built of Holmesburg granite and Indiana limestone. The arms of the Washington Memorial Chapel will be carved in stone above the pulpit, as they include the Washington arms. The Colonial seal of New York will be cast in bronze and set in the floor of Knoxville marble. The ceil-

ing will be of oak, carved by hand, and on the central boss will be carved the arms of the State of New York. The insignia of the society of the Colonial Dames of America will also be used as one of the decorative features of the Bay. The inscription will be cut in the structural stone.

The committee for the Valley Forge Memorial is as follows:

Mrs. Edward H. Ripley, chairman.
Miss Borrowe.
Miss Carmalt.
Mrs. Joseph T. Low.
Mrs. Philip J. Sands.
Mrs. Arthur T. Sutcliffe.
Mrs. Suydam.

The committee has issued a most attractive appeal to its members for prompt contributions, as work will be begun at once. The last sentence aptly expresses the spirit in which these patriots are working —a spirit which must be an inspiration to others. "The object is so appealing, so particularly consistent with the spirit of Colonial History, that we rejoice to find so glorious an opportunity awaiting our concentrated action."

The key note of the movement is:

"Valley Forge! Our inspiration and our heritage."

Funeral of Mrs. Jesse Y. Burk.

The first funeral held in the Washington Memorial Chapel was that of the mother of the rector, Mrs. Gertrude Hele Burk, on February 13. Mrs. Burk had been an invalid for about two years, and for several months had been living with her son at Port Kennedy. It had been her wish that she might spend her last days near the Chapel and be laid to rest in the Washington Memorial Cemetery, to which she had removed the body of her late husband, the Rev. Jesse Y. Burk, S. T. D.

When it was decided to build the temporary chapel, now used as the parish house,—a decision made in response to the appeal of Mrs. W. Herbert Burk to the Vestry of All Saints' Church—Mr. Burk, his wife and mother went to the woodland, selected the site, and spent two days in clearing the ground with their own hands.

Mrs. Burk was the daughter of James E. Hele and Miriam Cridland, and was born in the homestead which stood near Broad and Huntingdon streets, and which for a number of years was used as the Methodist Home. In 1866 she married the Rev. Jesse Young Burk, the eldest son of Isaac Burk, a botanist of note. Dr. Burk was a Philadelphian by birth, and was educated in the public schools of Philadelphia, in the Episcopal Academy, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Divinity School of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Dr. Burk's first parish was St. James' Church, Downingtown, Pa., from which he was called to the rectorship of Trinity Church, Southwark, Philadelphia. When his health broke down in 1888 he resigned and accepted the rectorship of St. Peter's Church, Clarksboro, N. J. In his new field he gained in health and strength, but declined all calls to larger parishes and gave to a small body of people talents that would have won him honor in any field. The modest home at Clarksboro became the center of the countryside, and all were sure of a cordial reception and hours that would never be forgotten. In 1882 Dr. Burk was elected Secretary of the University of Pennsylvania, a position he held to the time of his death in conjunction with his rural parish. This gave him the intellectual atmosphere in which he lived his best, and the little rectory became the resting place of scholars and men of affairs. Mrs. Burk gave to the home the charm of her generous and cheerful spirit. To her, money, time and strength were only hers for the happiness of others.

The Rev. Louis R. F. Davis, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Clarksboro, officiated at the funeral, which was largely attended. The vested choir, under the leadership of Miss Mary M. Hibbs, took part in the service, and the pall-bearers were Joseph T. Taylor, Esq., Mr. William M. Carter, Mr. Frank Quigg, Mr. Nathan Hughes and Mr. S. Col. Summerill.